WEEKLY REPORT TO THE COMMISSIONERS
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING
JUNE 15, 1970

To date, the Board has authorized an expenditure of approximately $17,435,000 for architectural and engineering design services for the Trade Center which was adequate through May 1970. For the period June 1,1970 through December 31, 1970, inclusive, an additional $1,100,000 is required for basic work on the Southeast Plaza Building, for review of shop drawings, for field inspection, and for the design of the observatory on the top of the South Tower Building. The basic design work and other engineering services are exclusive of the design of the building to be erected on the southwest corner of the Trade Center complex. Authorization of funds for this building will be requested from the Board at a later date.

In addition, from June 1, 1970 to December 1, 1970, engineering and design services will be required for tenants such as the New York Telephone Company, U.S. Bureau of Customs and Chase Manhattan Bank. These are recoverable expenditures and are estimated to total approximately $400,000.

The Board authorized the award of a contract for light fixtures in the North and South Tower Buildings, Northeast and Southeast Plaza Buildings and Plaza of the Trade Center to Venini Ltd., at a price of $430,540.

This contract requires the contractor to furnish 166 light fixtures to be installed by others in the Trade Center in the Main Lobby and skylobbies of the Tower Buildings and the lobbies of the Northeast and Southeast Plaza Buildings and to furnish nine light fixtures to be mounted by others on 37-foot high standards in the Plaza.

These light fixtures in the Tower Building lobbies are a fundamental part of the overall design of these areas. After actual inspection of three of the world's best known manufacturers of decorative glass and crystal in Montreal, Canada; Orrefors, Sweden; and Venice, Italy; the Architect has selected a fixture designed by Venini, Ltd. of Venetian crystal as being the only one capable of achieving the proper aesthetic effect in the lobbies. Adaptations of the same design and material will also be used in the Northeast and Southeast Plaza Buildings for aesthetic continuity. In addition, the lighting required in the Plaza, surrounding the fountain, requires the same degree of excellence. The Architect has determined that the Plaza lights, as designed and created by Venini, Ltd., will meet this standard.

The Board authorized Supplement 4 to the contract with Mario and DiBono Plastering Company, Inc., for fireproofing in the North and South Tower Buildings of the Trade Center at a price of $310,500.

This contract, as supplemented, requires the contractor to apply fireproofing to the structural steel of the Tower Buildings, the below grade areas, and the Northeast Plaza Building.

The original contract calls for the application of spray-on fireproofing which contains asbestos. This material was consistent with the existing Building Code Regulations and was used as standard practice by the construction industry. However, subsequent to award, the potential health hazards of asbestos materials escaping into circulating air were brought to light by medical researchers, and the contractor was required to use tarpaulins to entrap as much of the material as possible. Simultaneously, staff began working closely with the Environmental Protection Administration of the City of New York and Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, Director, Environmental Sciences Laboratory, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, to develop regulations concerning spray-on fireproofing containing asbestos. These procedures, developed by the Port Authority, were subsequently incorporated by the City of New York as part of the rules and regulations applying to the entire construction industry.

Subsequently, and at a later date, the Environmental Protection Administration issued a set of revised administrative standards with respect to the use of asbestos containing materials designed to halt this type of operation in the entire City. The Port Authority was then advised that all asbestos spraying was suspended in New York City. In addition, the Department of Air Resources has proposed that the new Air Pollution Code contain a provision banning the spraying of materials containing asbestos in New York City.

Since staff had been working with appropriate experts on this problem for over six months and since it has always been the policy of the Port Authority to conform voluntarily to municipal rules and regulations to the extent practicable, particularly where the public health or safety is involved, Mario and DiBono was directed to cease spray fireproofing containing asbestos materials.

Staff, in conjunction with the contractor and Mt. Sinai Hospital, researched a spray-on fireproofing, only recently introduced on the market, which does not contain asbestos fibers. The material was found acceptable and is manufactured by U.S. Mineral Products Company of Stanhope, New Jersey, which was the supplier of the original asbestos material. Tests by independent laboratories show that this material is as effective as the material previously used containing asbestos fibers.

The Board authorized an amendment to the lease with Universal Terminal and Stevedoring Corporation covering the company's new marine facility at Port Newark, to provide that the Port Authority increase the limitation of payments to contractor for